

# IN Review

Indiana Department of Labor  
Occupational Safety 2006

*Working to make Indiana business clean  
and safe, and wages fair and competitive*

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One Hoosier injured or made ill while at work is one too many. Eliminating all injuries and illness may not sound realistic but as Commissioner of Labor for the State of Indiana, I am personally committed to utilizing every resource available to us to do our best to reduce workplace fatalities and injuries in the areas where we have jurisdiction.

Our philosophy is that by partnering with Indiana businesses and business organizations, schools and labor, we can more proactively and effectively serve the working people of the state. As a result of our agency's efforts combined with these key partnerships, we offer safety related consulting services for small business as well as safety and hygiene training. Our data based approach to safety means that we try hard to be ahead of trends and identify enforcement and training needs before these trends become a problem for Hoosier workers.

As part of this overall effort to improve Indiana workplace safety, we have commissioned an independent review of the 2004 workplace fatalities, injuries, and illnesses which is reported in this IN Review brochure. From this study, we will see where Indiana stands relative to our prior history, our five state region, and to the U.S. as a whole, and we will look for trends and areas for us to target from a policy, training, and enforcement perspective. We look forward to your input and comments as we use this document to focus



Miguel R. Rivera, Sr.  
Commissioner of Labor

our efforts going forward.

As the Governor says, our mission is to increase the income Hoosiers take home everyday. To do that, we want to make Indiana businesses clean and safe and wages fair and competitive. To do that, we want partnerships with business, labor and management. Together we can succeed. Join with us as we work to bring Indiana's promise and potential to reality.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Miguel R. Rivera, Sr.

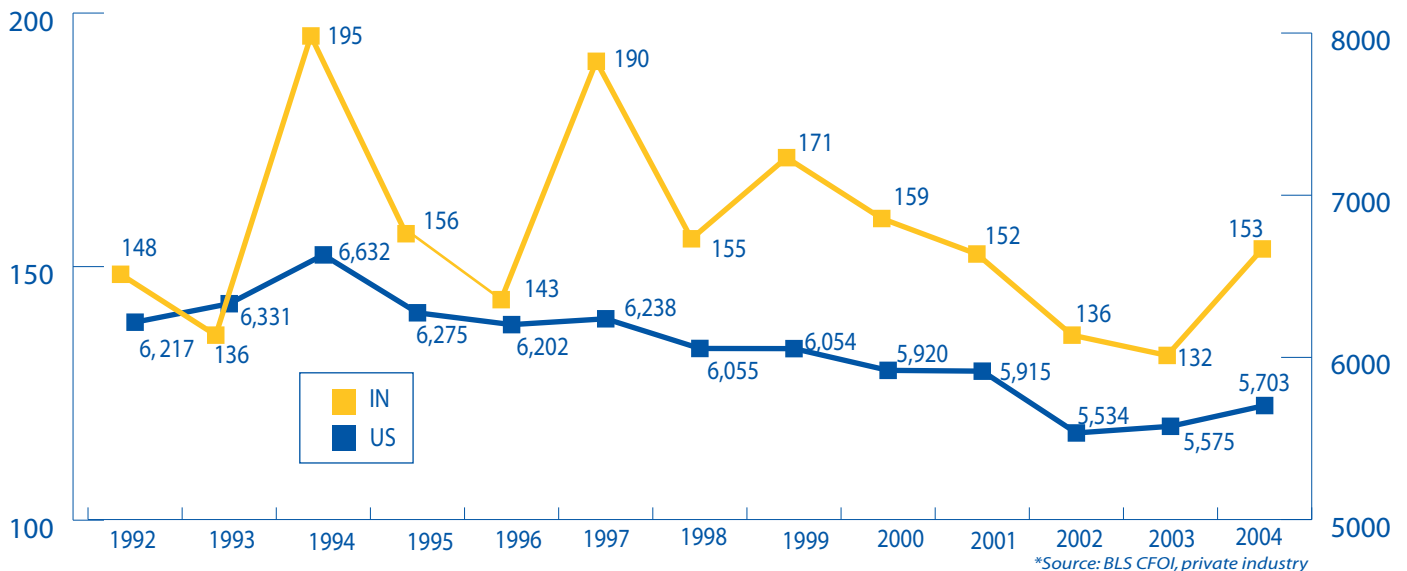
# 2004 Fatal Occupational Injuries in the State of Indiana

In Indiana in 2004 there were 153 fatal occupational injuries according to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) conducted by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Examining work-related fatalities by the events responsible and by industries and occupational groups affected reveal certain key findings about fatal occupational injuries in Indiana. It should be noted that the Indiana Department of Labor has limited jurisdiction in the areas of agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, or transportation.

## Key Findings of the 2004 BLS CFOI

- There were 153 fatal occupational injuries in 2004, up 15.9% from the 2003 figure of 132. This increase comes after decreasing numbers of fatal occupational injuries from 1999 to 2003.
- Transportation incidents continued to be the leading cause of fatal occupational injuries in 2004.
- The events causing work-related fatalities in 2004 in Indiana were relatively consistent with those of the region (consisting of Michigan, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana) and the national percentages, though transportation events were responsible for a slightly larger percentage of work-related fatalities in Indiana.
- The Industry groups most affected by fatal occupational injuries in 2004 were the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting and Transportation and Warehousing, consistent with the 2003 findings. Within these industries, Transportation and material moving and Farmers & Ranchers also were, most affected by fatal occupational injuries.
- Indiana had a smaller percentage of fatal occupational injuries in the construction industry than the region or nation but higher percentages in the two leading industry groups, Transportation & Warehousing and Agriculture, Forestry, & Fishing. Similarly, the occupational groups contained in the construction industry, Construction and Extraction, comprised a higher percentage of work-related fatalities in the region and nation than in Indiana.
- The number and percentage of fatalities by falls continued to increase to a twelve year high in Indiana in 2004.

**Figure 1: Number of Work Related Fatal Injuries**



## Causes of Work Related Deaths in 2004

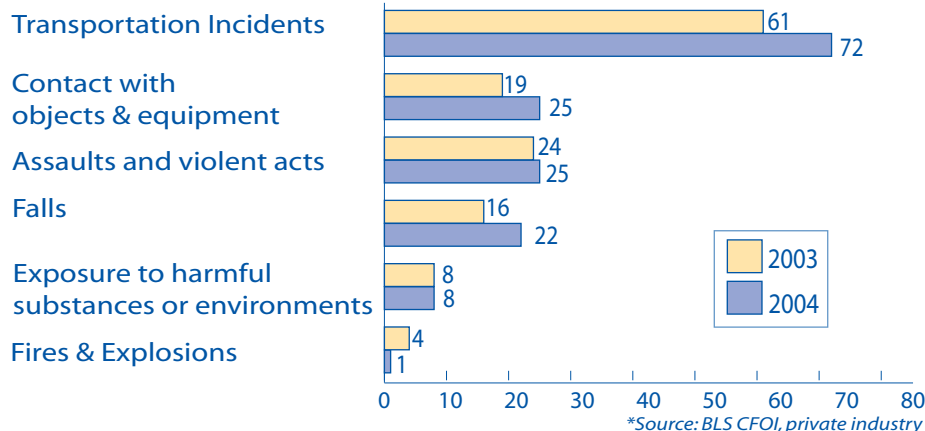
### *Transportation Incidents Leading Cause of Work Related Deaths in 2004*

According to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) conducted by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the leading cause of work related death in Indiana continued to be transportation incidents in 2004. Transportation incidents were responsible for 72 of the 153, or 48.0 % of the total fatal occupational injuries in the state (**Figure 2**). The category of transportation incidents includes any incident involving a vehicle. The category includes highway accidents, which account for approximately half of all transportation related incidents, and also those involving trains, airplanes, and incidents with vehicles that happen in parking lots or on construction sites. This is an area where IDOL has limited jurisdiction.

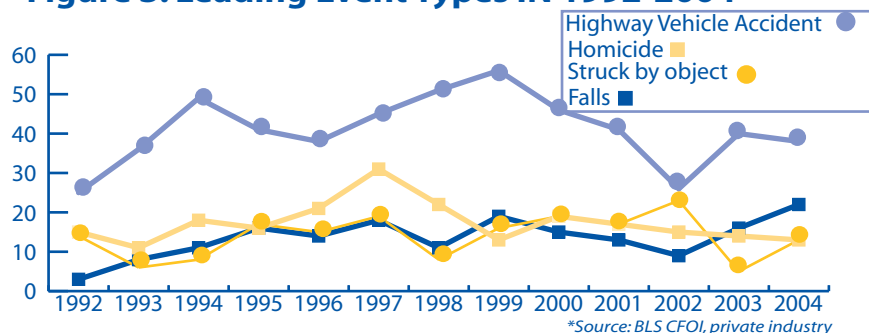
There were 11 more fatal occupational injuries due to transportation incidents in 2004 than in the previous year, but transportation incidents accounted for roughly the same percentage of the total fatal occupational injuries for the two years at 48% and 46% respectively (**Figure 2**). Highway vehicle accidents have been the leading cause of occupational fatalities in the state of Indiana for over a decade (**Figure 3**).

Other causes of fatal occupational injuries in 2004 include contact with objects and equipment, 25 fatalities (16%); assaults and violent acts, 25 fatalities (16%); falls, 22 fatalities (14%); exposure to harmful substances or environments, 8 fatalities (5%); and fires and explosions, 1 fatality (1%) (**Figure 2**).

**Figure 2: 2003-2004 Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event Type**



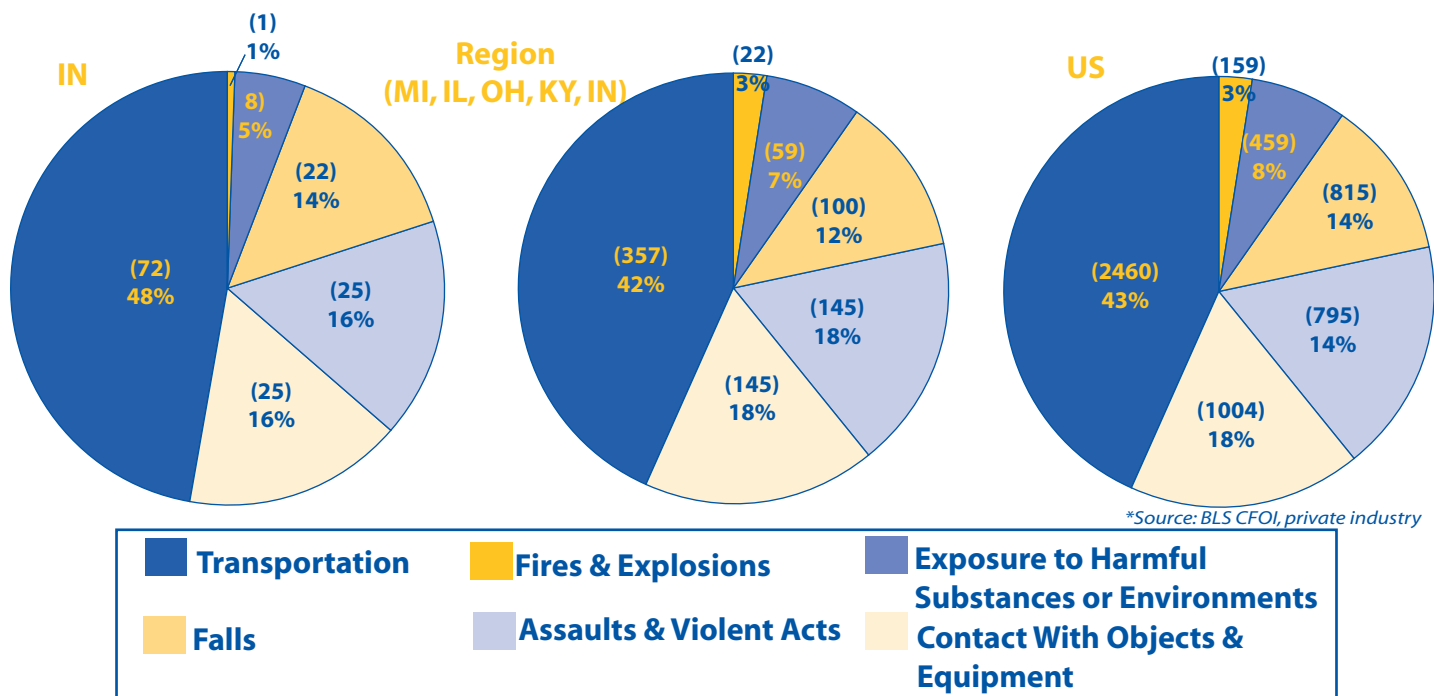
**Figure 3: Leading Event Types IN 1992-2004**



### *Leading Cause of Work-Related Fatalities In-line with Nation, Region*

The leading cause of fatal occupational injuries in 2004 on a national level was transportation accounting for 43% of all fatal occupational injuries in the United States. The national percentage represents a five percentage point lower value than the Indiana percentage (**Figure 4**). This difference may be explained because Indiana has the largest percentage of its workforce in production, transportation, and materials moving in the country according the Occupations 2000: Census 2000 Brief by the US Department of Commerce. The percentage of Indiana's workforce in production, transportation, and materials moving was 21.4%, considerably higher than the national figure of 14.6%.

The leading cause of fatal occupational injuries in 2004 on a regional level was also transportation accounting for 42% of all fatal occupational injuries in the region including Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Michigan. The regional figure represents a five percentage point lower value than the Indiana percentage (**Figure 4**) but is more consistent with the national percentage of fatalities caused by transportation incidents. Indiana also has the highest percentage of its workforce in production, transportation, and materials moving in the region as of the 2000 Census. The percentage of its workforce in production, transportation, and materials moving was 21.4%, considerably higher than the Midwestern figure of 17.6%. Other states in Indiana's region reported percentages ranging from 15.7-19.7%.

**Figure 4: Work Related Fatal Injury Events IN & Region & US 2004**

## Fatalities by Industry & Occupation

### Agriculture and Transportation

#### Industries Lead Fatalities

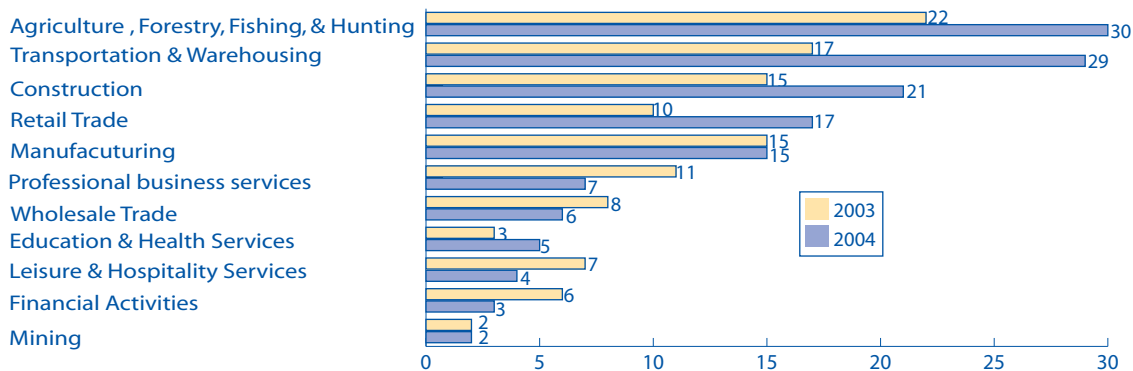
The 2004 Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) found that in Indiana the industry group reporting the greatest number of work-related fatalities was the group consisting of Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting, reporting 30 fatalities in 2004 or roughly 22% of the total work-related fatalities. A close second with 29 fatalities or 21% of

the state total was the group comprised of Transportation and Warehousing. (Figure 5) These numbers are up slightly from the 2003 totals with the Agriculture group reporting 8 more deaths and the Transportation group reporting 12 more deaths. (Figure 5) Fatal occupational injuries in the Agriculture group were up in 2004 after steadily declining since their high in 1999. (Figure 6)

Other industry groups reporting

large percentages of the 153 total fatal occupational injuries were Construction with 21 fatalities (15%), Retail Trade with 17 fatalities (12%), and Manufacturing with 15 fatalities (11%). Like the leading groups, Construction and Retail Trade both saw increases from the 2003 numbers, while Manufacturing held steady. Industry groups reporting lower numbers of fatal occupational injuries in 2004 than in the previous

(continued on page 5)

**Figure 5: Indiana 2003 - 2004 Fatal Occupational Injuries by Industry**

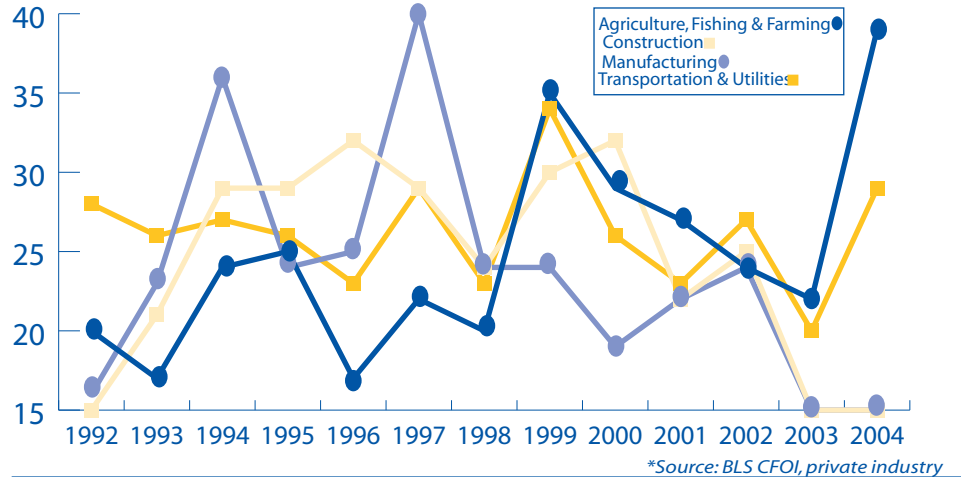
year were Professional Business Services, Wholesale Trade, Leisure and Hospitality Services, and Financial Activities.

### Indiana Fatalities in Agriculture,

### Transportation Outpace Nation, Region

Comparing Indiana fatal occupational injuries to the region, comprised of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, and Michigan and the nation, reveals that the percentages of Indiana fatalities in the Agriculture and Transportation industry groups are higher than the regional and national percentages in those industry groups. In the group consisting of Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting, 30 deaths or roughly 22% of the total fatal occupational injuries were reported in Indiana. Regionally, the same group was responsible for only 18% of total fatal occupational injuries, a four percentage point difference. (Figure 7) Nationally the difference was even

**Figure 6: Leading Industries IN 1992-2004**



greater with the Agriculture group accounting for only 13% of the total fatal occupational injuries, a nine percentage point difference. (Figure 7) Likewise in the group consisting of Transportation and Warehousing was responsible for 29 deaths or roughly 21% of total fatal occupational injuries, while regionally and nationally the group only accounted for 17% of the total.

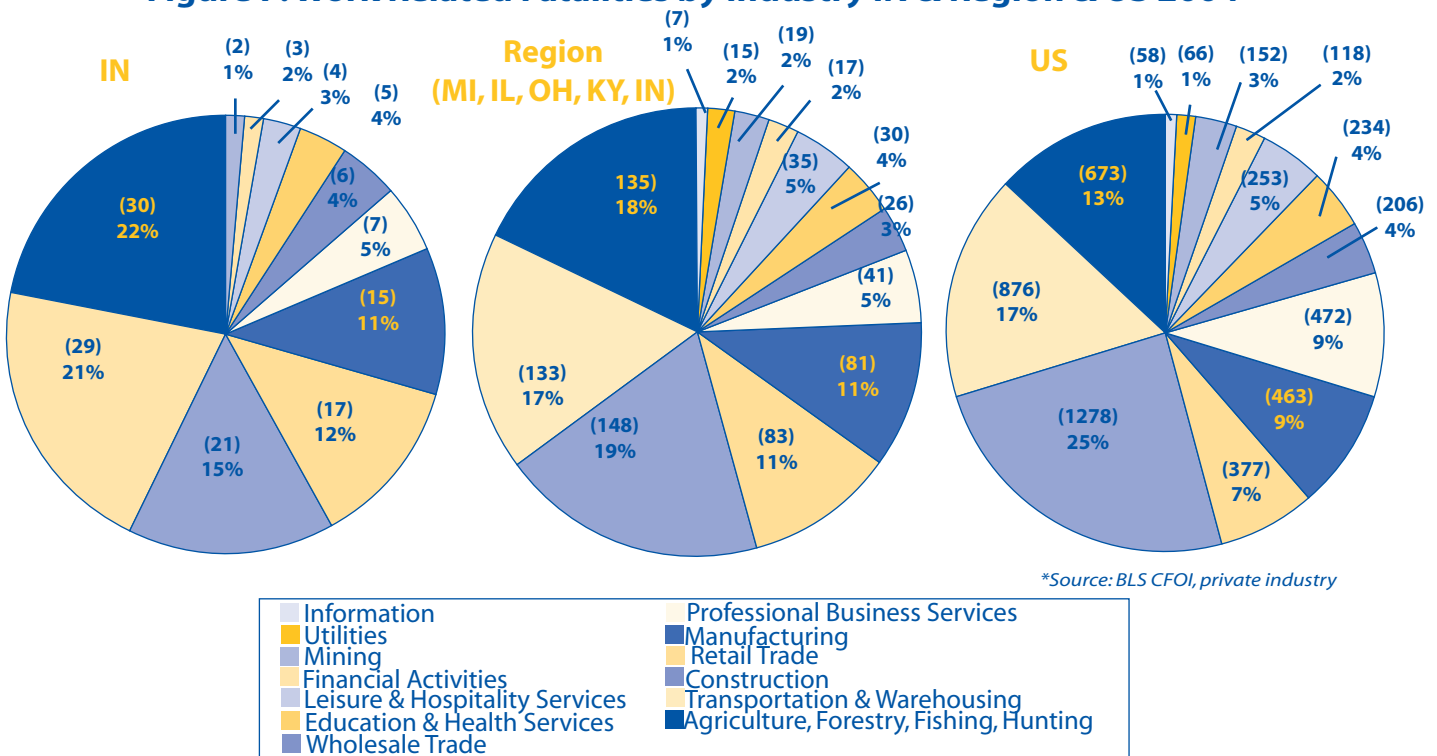
The industry with the largest share

of fatal occupational injuries from both a regional and national perspective was Construction, accounting for 19% of the total fatal occupational injuries across the region and 25% of fatal occupation injuries in the country. In Indiana, Construction had only the third largest share of fatalities and only 15% of the states total.

These differences may be partially explained by the distribution of the workforce in Indiana. Indiana has a

(continued on page 6)

**Figure 7: Work Related Fatalities by Industry IN & Region & US 2004**





## IN Review

larger percentage of its workforce employed in Transportation and Warehousing (21%) than any other state in its region or the country (14%) according to the Occupations 2000: Census 2000 Brief by the US Department of Commerce.

Interestingly while Indiana has a larger percentage of fatalities in the Agriculture industry group, the percentage of the Indiana workforce employed in the group is lower than both the national and Midwestern

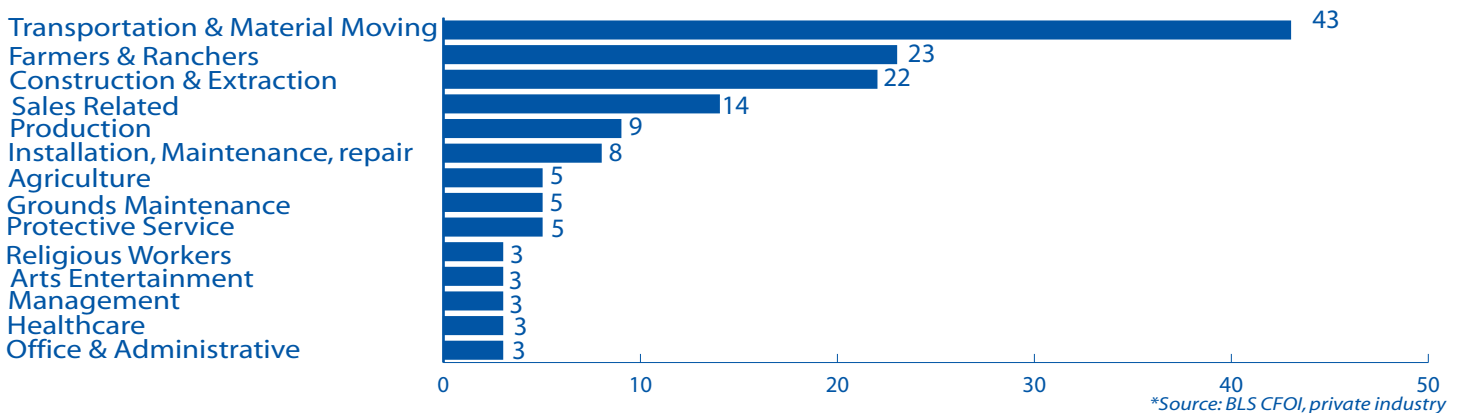
percentages. Additionally while Indiana has a larger percentage of its workforce in Construction than either its region or the nation, Indiana reported a smaller percentage its fatalities in that industry group than both its region and the nation.

### *Occupations in Transportation Lead Fatalities in 2004*

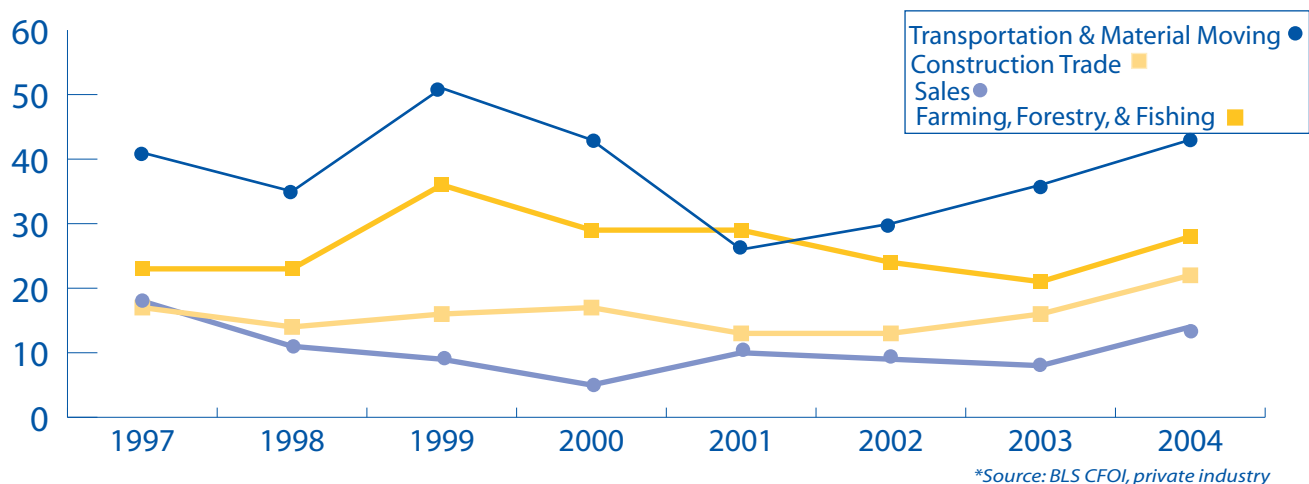
Consistent with the findings for event type and industry groupings, occupations in transportation and materials moving accounted for the largest

share of fatal occupational injuries in Indiana in 2004 with 43 reported deaths. **(Figure 8)** Fatalities in Transportation and Materials moving occupations have steadily climbed since an eight year low in 2001. **(Figure 9)** Other occupational groups with high levels of work-related fatalities include Farming, Forestry and Fishing occupations, Construction trades, and Sales occupations, which all reported more fatalities in 2004 than in the previous year.

**Figure 8: Indiana 2004 Fatal Occupational Injuries by Occupation**



**Figure 9: Indiana Four Leading Fatal Occupations 1992-2004**



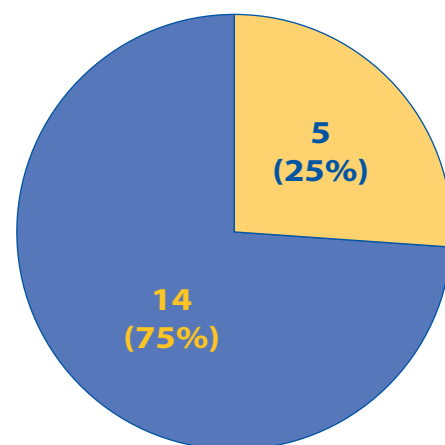
## Fatalities by Falls Continue Rise to Record High in 2004

As previously mentioned, work-related fatalities increased nearly 16% to 153 fatalities in 2004 up from 132 the previous year. While the number of total fatalities was up from 2003, many of the leading events causing work-related fatalities continued to trend downward or hold steady, one group continued to trend up. Work-related fatalities due to falls were up another 2% from 2003, making falls the fourth leading cause of fatal occupational injuries. **(Figure 10)** In 2004 alone, falls were responsible for 22 work-related deaths in Indiana. The Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries reports that in the years 2003 and 2004, 38 fatal occupational injuries resulted from falls, 13% of total fatal occupational injuries. Of those 38 falls, 92 percent were to a lower level. The construction industry was most affected by fatalities caused by falls, with 34% of total deaths caused by falls. Falls from roofs were especially deadly, responsible for 16% of all fall deaths and 46% of construction injury

deaths. Over the period studied from 1992-2004, deaths from falls climbed from 3 in 1992, to a record high of 22 in 2004. This alarming rise, led IDOL to study fatalities caused by falls. In the fifteen-month span from January 2004 to March 2005, 20 deaths were reported with 4 deaths in August alone **(Figure 12)**.

As IDOL works to reduce fatal occupational injuries, it becomes important to examine if deaths could have been anticipated and prevented. With falls in Indiana, 75% occurred during an activity where falling was known to be a significant risk, many being falls from roofs and man-lifts. **(Figure 11)** Only 5 falls occurred in situations unknown to be hazardous where elements gave way or during activities where the risk of fall was not perceived. The fact that so many of these deaths occurred when the risk of falling was known suggests that there may be more that can be done to minimize these risks and protect Indiana workers.

**Figure 11: Was Falling a Foreseeable Risk?**



*\*Source: IOSHA Insepection Data*

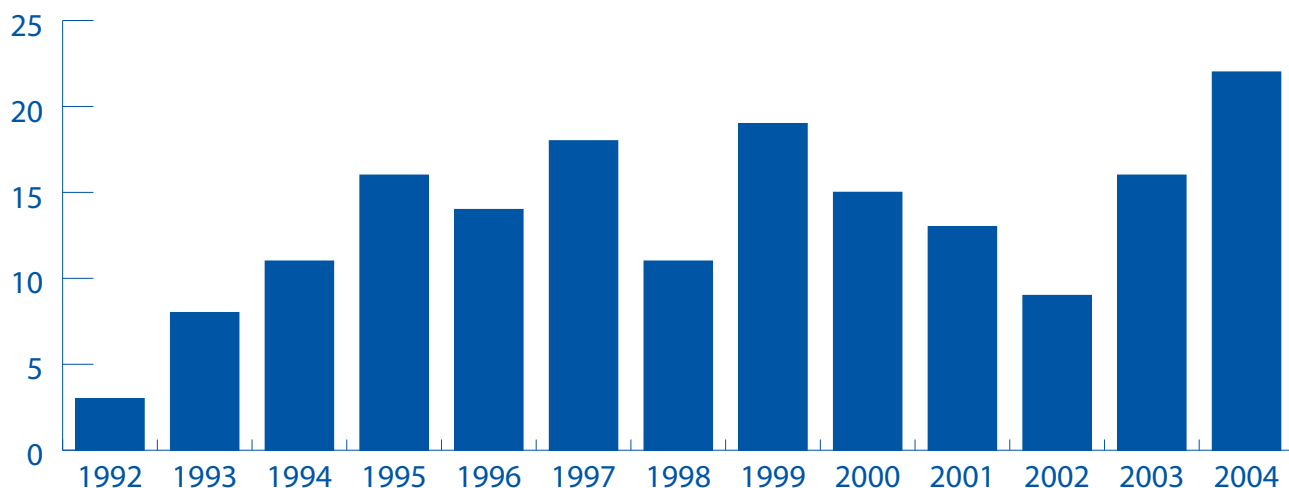
3/4 of falls were during an activity where falling is a significant risk.

- 7 falls were from roof related activities
- 2 falls were off man lifts

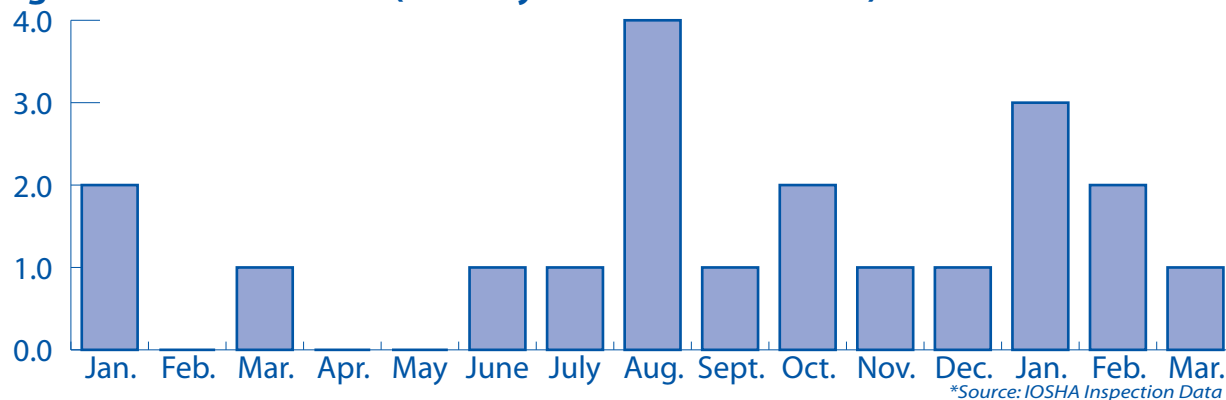
Unexpected falls were when elements gave way from activities where risk of fall is not perceived

- 2 falls where victim slipped on ground

**Figure 10: Fatalities by Falls - IN**



*\*Source: BLS CFI, private industry*

**Figure 12: Fall Trends IN (January 2004 to March 2005)**

## IN Summary

### *Fatal Occupational Injuries & Illnesses*

The 2004 Indiana private industry work-related fatalities data, while reflecting a 15.9 % increase from 2003, shows minor variance from regional and national comparisons. The major causes of fatalities, and the industries and occupations in which they occur remain relatively static over time. Transportation and material moving occupations had the most workplace fatalities (72) in 2004. Traffic accidents caused the majority of these deaths but are largely outside the regulatory control of IDOL. Federal, State, and local regulatory and enforcement agencies (e.g. DOT, ISP, and NHTSA) have the most effect on preventing accidents. Investigations of traffic accidents, even when work-related, are conducted by other agencies and is not within the realistic purview of IDOL. The need to reduce deaths in this area may present a partnering opportunity for IDOL with the aforementioned agencies to explore data sharing and analysis that could lead to joint training and improved regulatory and enforcement programs. In Indiana in 2004, The Agriculture, forestry, and hunting industry group had the largest percentage of fatalities, higher than both the regional and national

percentages. In Indiana, the majority of workers in this industry group are involved in farming. The need for IDOL to target this high fatality risk industry is obvious, but also complicated. The USDA Economic Research Service reports that in 2003 89.3 % of Indiana farms are operated as individual, family or sole proprietorship and that only .3 % is classified as non-family corporation farms. Due to the exemption from IDOL inspection that farms employing fewer than 10 employees enjoy (I.C. 22-8-1.1-23.1), compliance for the vast majority of farms is voluntary. Partnering with entities like the U.S. Dept of Agriculture, Farm Bureaus and Cooperatives, Extension Offices, and universities to target safety awareness and training for farming could pay significant dividends in reducing farm related fatalities.

IDOL has correctly identified fatalities from falls as a growing concern. The number of deaths from falls has been inching ever higher and deaths from falls are one of the nation's leading causes of workplace fatalities. The construction industry had 1,224 fatalities in 2004, to top the nation in workplace deaths by occupation. In the private construction industry alone, nearly one in four fatalities in

both 2003 and 2004 was a laborer and 30% of these laborer fatalities were falls to lower levels. Workplace fatality statistics for Indiana from January 2004 through March 2005 indicate that 20 deaths resulted from falls. A full 75% of these falls occurred while workers were performing tasks where falling was a known hazard. These deaths occurred primarily with employers with fewer than 250 employees and working on residential construction and projects smaller than \$1 million.

IDOL's efforts to target falls with increased training, consultation and enforcement seem justified. Reducing the dollar threshold for construction projects targeted for inspections and including residential construction sites should improve safety in construction trades. Free fall protection seminars through INSafe in English and Spanish show promise. New partnerships with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and the Indiana Manufacturer's Association that offer safety training scholarships for seminars to businesses that can show a need and who employ fewer than 200 employees should reduce fatalities. These anticipated improvements will be monitored and reported in future IN Review studies.



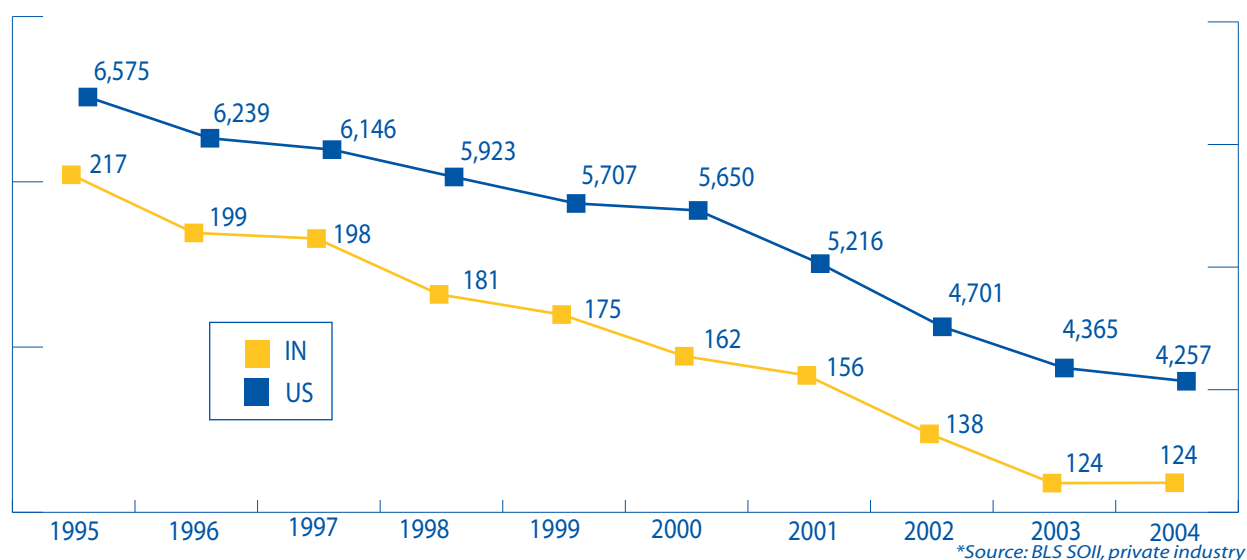
## 2004 Non-fatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in the State of Indiana

In 2004 in the state of Indiana the Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) conducted by BLS reported 124,100 total non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses in private industry. 26,490, or 21%, of those non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses involved days away from work.

### Key Findings of the SOII for the State of Indiana 2004

- The most common event leading to non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses was contact with an object or equipment, responsible for 7,100 or 27% of all non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses that involved days away from work.
- Indiana's leading categories of events causing occupational injuries and illnesses were consistent with those of the nation.
- The industry group most affected by non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses in 2004 continued to be manufacturing reporting 35% of total non-fatal occupational illnesses and injuries involving days away from work.
- Nationally the manufacturing industry consisted of only 18% of total non-fatal occupational illnesses and injuries involving days away from work, 17 percentage points less than Indiana's numbers.
- While production was the major occupational group reporting the largest share of non-fatal occupational illnesses and injuries involving days away from work, the single occupation reporting the largest share was truck drivers (heavy and tractor trailer). Jurisdiction of this occupation falls under INDOT.
- Indiana had a 10 percentage point larger share of non-fatal occupational illnesses and injuries involving days away from work in production than the national percentage for production.

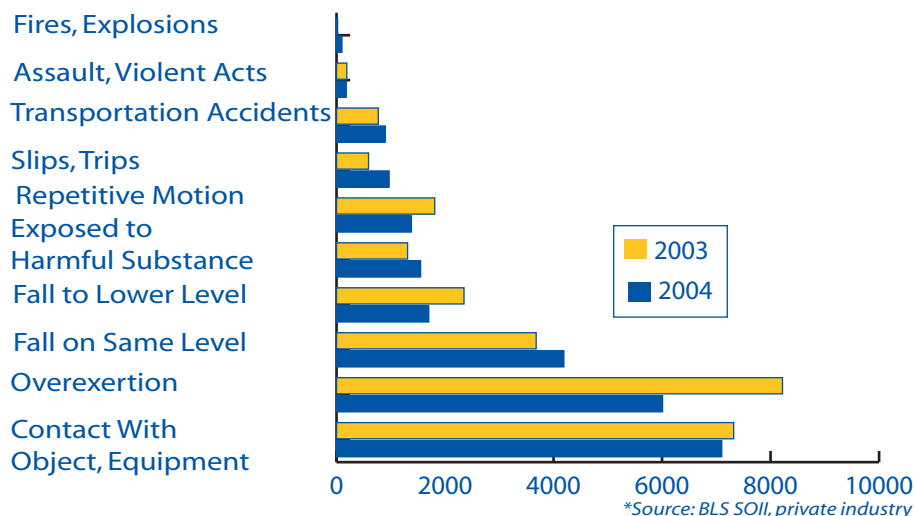
**Figure 13: Number of Work Related Injuries & Illnesses (in thousands)**



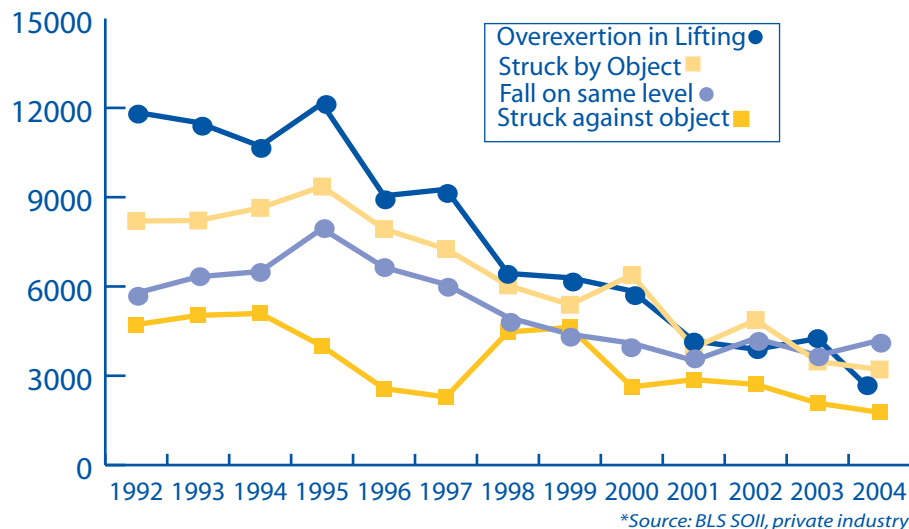
## Working Hoosiers Injured By Contact with Equipment, Overexertion

The Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) found that in Indiana in 2004, the majority of recorded work-related injuries and illnesses that involve days away from work are due to contact with objects and equipment with 7,100 incidents reported. (Figure 14) Though there were 220 less injuries and illnesses caused by contact with objects and equipment in 2004 than in the previous year, the category became the leading cause of injuries after a large reduction in injuries due to overexertion (6,010 down from 8,220 in 2003), which was the leading cause in 2003. There were roughly the same number of total falls causing workplace injuries in 2004 as in the previous year despite increases in falls on the same level and decreases in falls to a lower level. Also up from the 2003 totals were slips and trips, up 380 from 2003. Repetitive motion injuries were down to 1,380, 430 less than in 2003. Exposures to harmful substances were up in 2004 with 1,550 incidents reported, 240 more than in 2003. The four leading causes of injury and illnesses are all trending lower over the period studied. (Figure 15)

**Figure 14: Indiana Injury/ Illness by Event 2003 -2004**



**Figure 15: Four Leading Injury & Illness Events in 1992-2004**



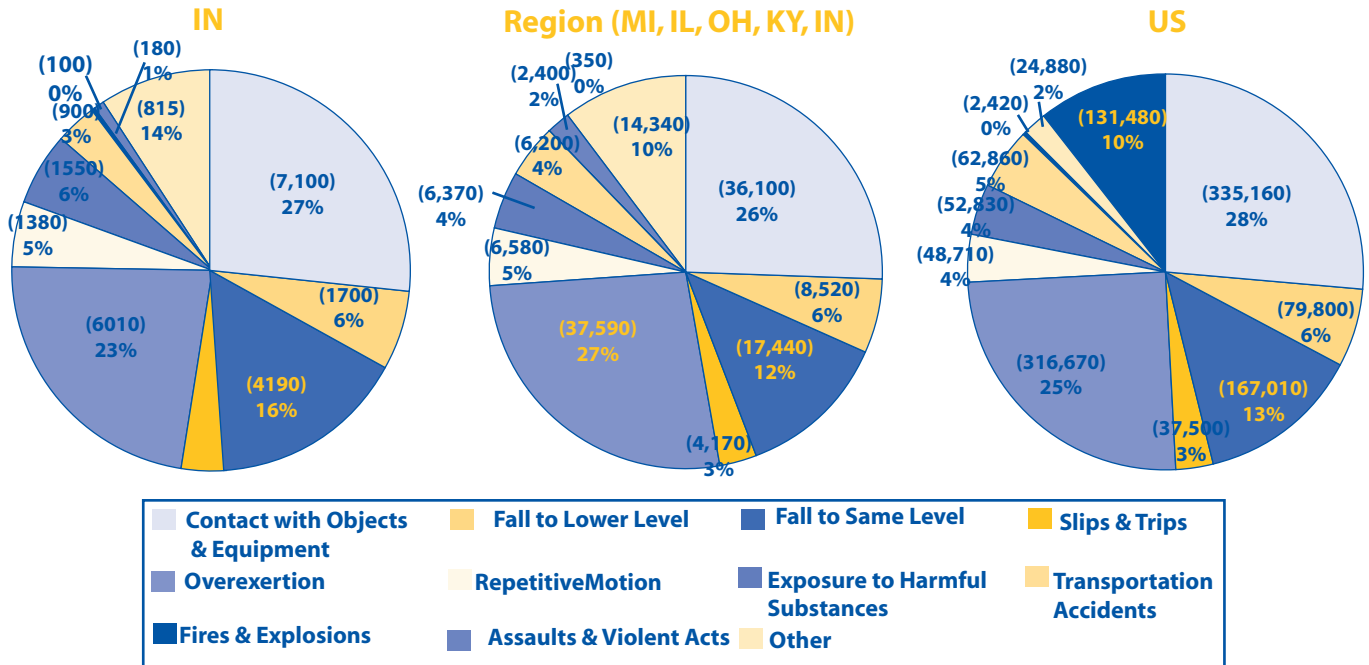
## Causes of Injuries and Illnesses in Indiana Consistent with Region, Nation

In 2004 the leading cause of work-related injuries and illnesses involving days away from work, contact with objects and equipment, was responsible for 27% of the total. Nationally contact with objects and equipment was responsible for 28% and regionally for 26% of total

occupational injuries and illnesses. (Figure 16) The second leading cause in Indiana, overexertion, was 23% of total occupational injuries and illnesses, nationally it accounted for 25% of injuries and illnesses, and regionally it was the leading cause with 27% of injuries and illnesses.

Indiana reported slightly more injuries and illnesses caused by falls than either the nation or region. Regionally falls accounted for roughly 18% of total injuries and illnesses, and nationally 19%, while in Indiana falls were responsible for 22% of total injuries and illnesses.

**Figure 16: Work Related Injury & Illness by Event IN & Region & US 2004**

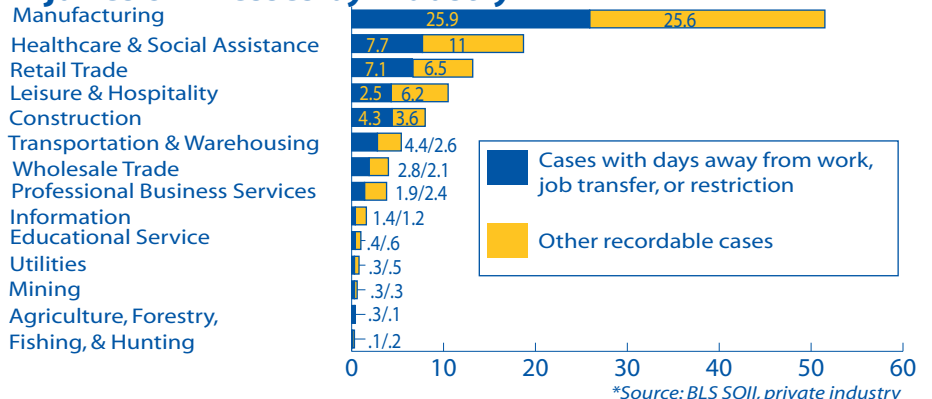


\*Source: BLS SOII, private industry

## Manufacturing Industry Most Affected by Injuries and Illnesses

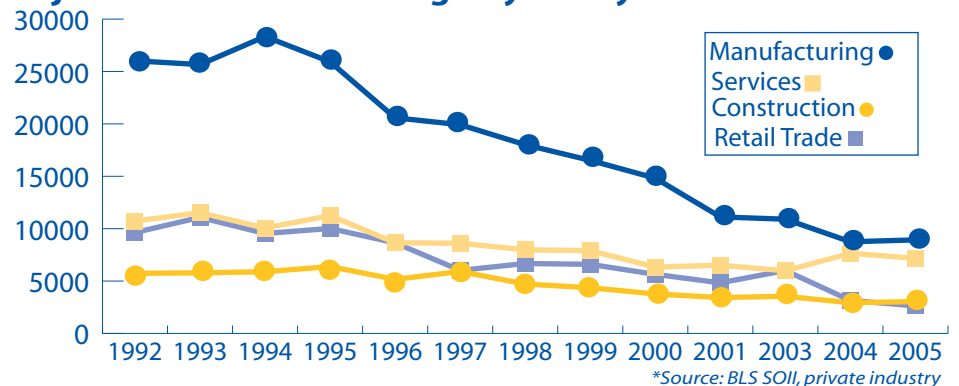
The 2004 BLS SOII reported that the Manufacturing industry had the most occupational injuries and illnesses, with over 51,500 total injuries and close to 30,000, or roughly 35% of total non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses necessitating days away from work, job transfers, or restrictions. (Figure 17) The second leading industry group was Healthcare and Social Assistance with 18,700 reported injuries and illnesses with almost 8,000 involving days away from work, job transfers, or restrictions. Retail trade was third with 13,600 reported injuries and illnesses, 7,100 of those involving days away from work, job transfers, or restrictions. Manufacturing has declined steadily since the mid 1990s when over 25,000 injuries and illnesses that required days away from work were reported. (Figure 18)

**Figure 17: Number of Indiana Occupational Injuries & Illnesses by Industry**



\*Source: BLS SOII, private industry

**Figure 18: IN Four Leading Industries by Number of Injuries & Illness Involving Days Away From Work**

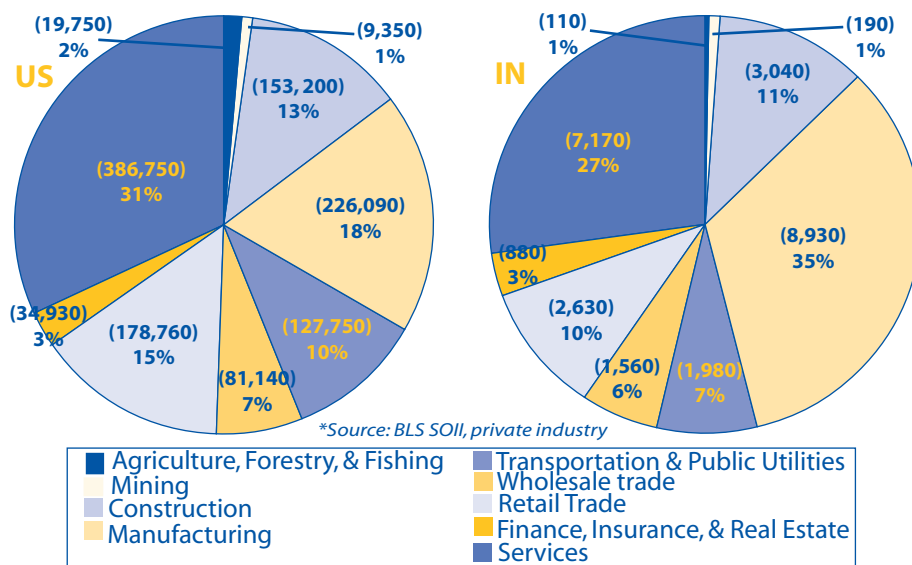


\*Source: BLS SOII, private industry

## Indiana Reports More Injuries & Illnesses in Manufacturing than Nation

The BLS SOII reported that in 2004 35% of total injuries and illnesses that involve days away from work were in the Manufacturing industry, while nationally the industry had only 18% of injuries and illnesses that involve days away from work. **(Figure 19)** Because Indiana had such a larger percentage of injuries and illnesses than the nation, the state had comparatively smaller percentages in almost all other industry groups than the nation including Construction, Agriculture, Services, Retail Trade, and Transportation.

**Figure 19: Work Related Injury & Illnesses by Industry US & IN 2004**

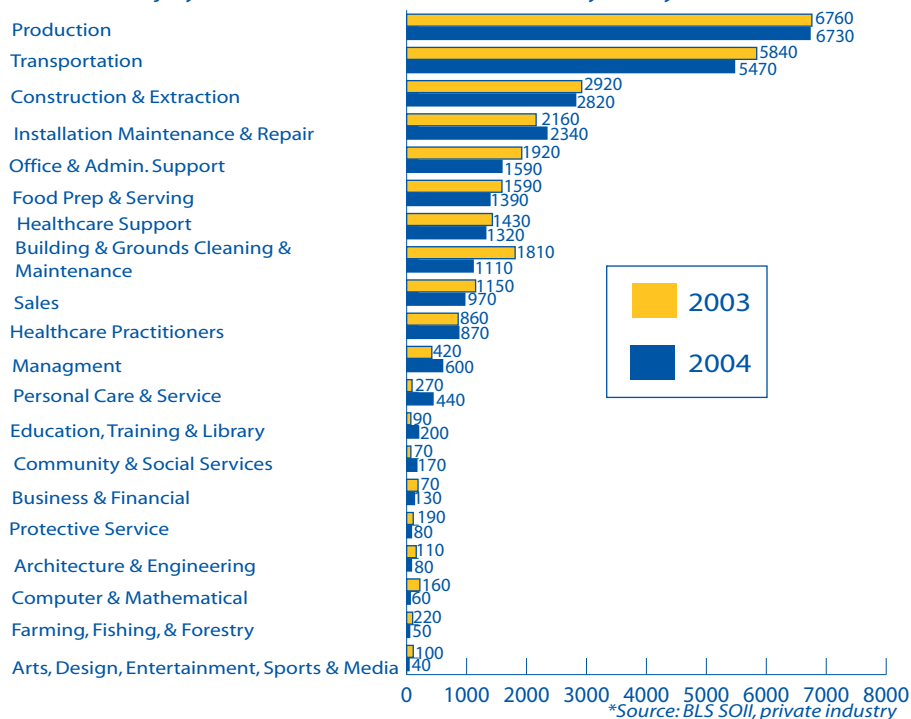


## Production Occupations Have Most Injuries, Illnesses

The 2004 BLS SOII reported that most injuries and illnesses occurred in occupations in Production. Occupations in Production had 6,730 reported injuries and illnesses involving days away from work.

**(Figure 20)** The second leading occupational group with 5,470 injuries and illnesses involving days away from work was the Transportation and Materials Moving group. Other occupational groups reporting more than 1,000 injuries and illnesses in Indiana in 2004 were Construction and Extraction, Installation, Maintenance and Repair, Office and Administrative Support, Food Preparation and Serving, Healthcare Support, and Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance. The Transportation and Materials moving group remained the occupational group with the second highest number despite 370 less injuries and illnesses than in the previous year. **(Figure 20)** Construction and Extraction, Office and Administrative

**Figure 20: IN Injury/ Illness by Major Occupational Group**  
(Injury & illnesses are cases that involve days away from work.)



tion Support, Food Preparation and Serving all had close to 200 less injuries and illnesses than in the previous year and notably the group comprised of Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance had 700 less injuries and illnesses than in the

previous year. Of the occupational groups reporting more than 1,000 injuries and illnesses, only Installation, Maintenance and Repair saw increases from the previous year with 2340 injuries and illnesses reported, 180 more than in 2003.

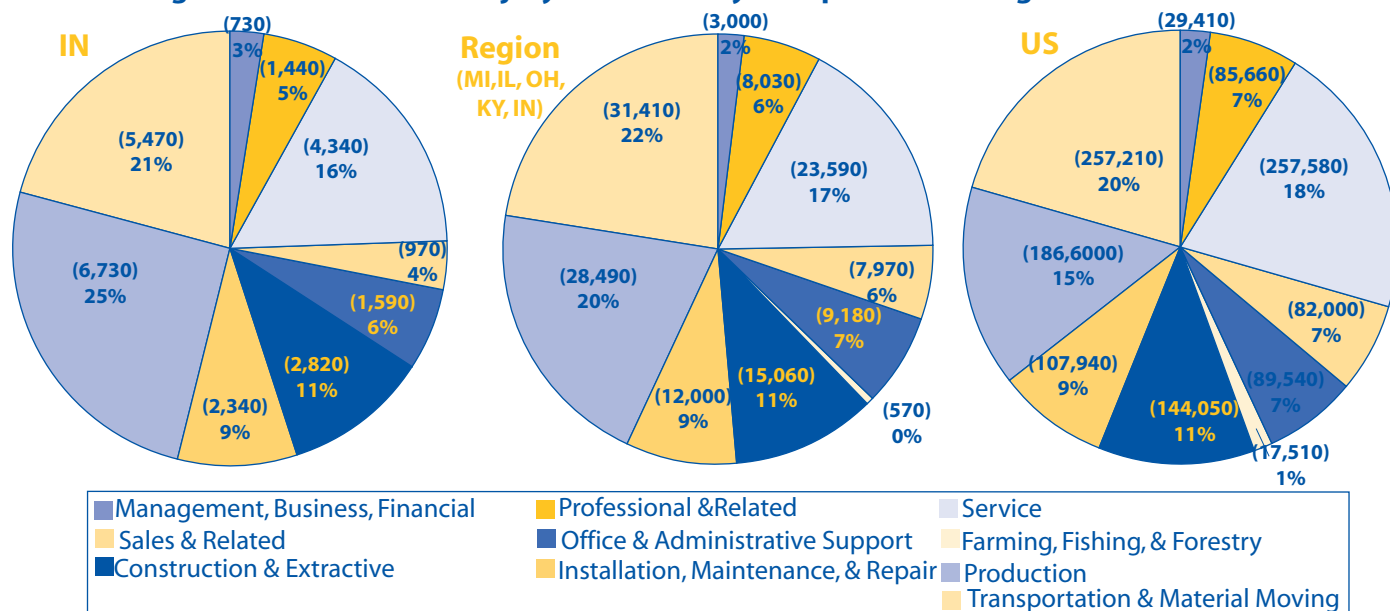
## Indiana Reports More Illnesses and Injuries Than U.S. in Production, Less in Service

In Indiana in 2004 the occupational group with the largest percentage of work-related injuries and illnesses involving days away from work was Production with 25% of the total reported injuries and illnesses. (Figure 21) Nationally occupations in Pro-

duction only accounted for 15% of total injuries and illnesses involving days away from work. Indiana also had a larger share of total injuries and illnesses in Production than its region, comprised of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, and Michigan, which

had 20% of injuries and illnesses in Production. (Figure 21) While Indiana had more injuries and illnesses in Production, the state had smaller percentages injured or ill in the Service occupations than either the nation or region.

**Figure 21: Work Related Injury & Illnesses by Occupation IN & Region & US 2004**



### IN Summary Non-Fatal Injuries & Illnesses

The 2004 private industry data of worker injuries and illnesses involving time away from work suggests that Indiana on average is fairly similar to the regional and national trends. Since 1992 through 2004, the four leading causes of injuries and illnesses, struck by object, fall on the same level, overexertion in lifting, and struck against object, have all been trending downward. Of these four causes, only the category “fall on same level” showed a slight increase from 2003 to 2004.

Although Indiana manufacturers have a higher percentage of injuries and illness involving days away from work than do the regional or

national comparison, it is encouraging to note that since 1992 Indiana manufacturing injuries have showed a very positive trend downwards (from approximately 26,000 in 1992 to approximately 14,000 in 2004, an impressive 46% improvement). Contrary to a “rust belt job loss” explanation for this improvement, BLS reports that during this same time period, that in January 1992, 590,600 people were employed in manufacturing as compared to 573,100 in December of 2004 or a 3% drop in manufacturing jobs. This would suggest that Indiana manufacturers are making improvements in their workplace safety. This said, production workers are still the occupation incurring the largest numbers of lost time injuries in

Indiana and a potential target area for the department of labor to focus its resources. As with fatalities, education and training should be a key component of this focus.

The Department of Labor’s current focus on enforcement, safety awards for good performance, and vigorous pursuit of penalties and fines when compliance isn’t achieved, should pay dividends in this area. The department’s increased utilization of voluntary compliance initiatives such as the Voluntary Protection Plan (VPP), which allows employers to demonstrate compliance proactively in return for exemption from inspection, should improve safety performance and will be monitored in future analysis.



## More Hoosier Men Killed in Work-Related Incidents than Women

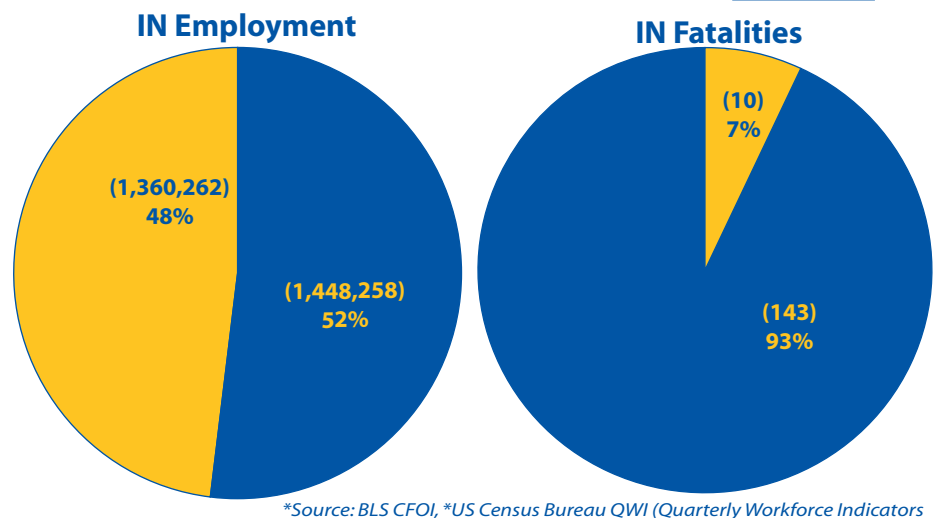
In Indiana in 2004, 53% of the labor force was male according to the US Census Bureau's Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). Though only making up just over half of Indiana employment, men accounted for 93% of all work-related death in Indiana in 2004. (Figure 22) While women made up 48% of Indiana employment they only made up 7% of work-related fatalities.

In Indiana in 2004, 67 men and 5 women suffered in fatal work injuries due to transportation incidents, making them the leading case of fatal occupational injuries for both sexes. (Figure 23) Transportation incidents accounted for 50% of work-related fatalities in men and 47% in women. (Figure 24)

The second leading cause of work-related death for men in Indiana in 2004 was contact with objects or equipment responsible for the deaths of 24 men and was responsible for 17% of work-related fatalities for men. For women, contact with objects or equipment was only the third leading cause of work-related deaths, responsible for one death and 10% of total fatal occupational injuries for women.

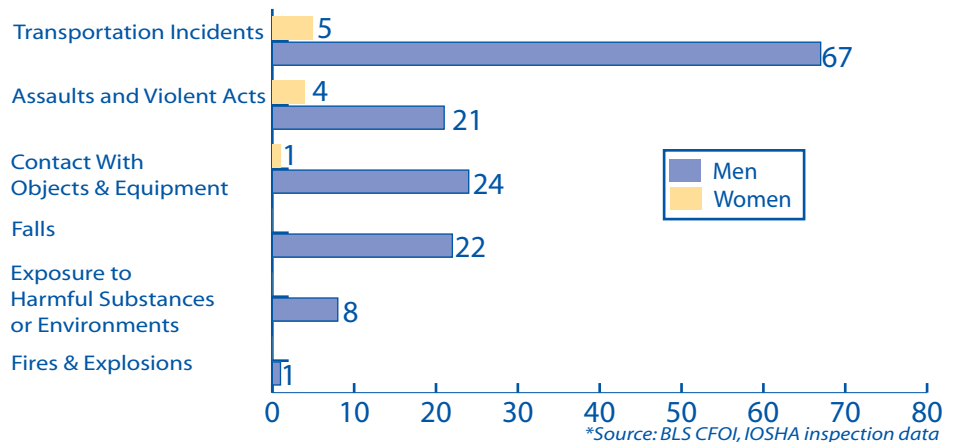
Interestingly, the second leading cause of work-related fatalities for women in Indiana in 2004 was assaults and violent acts. Assaults and violent acts were responsible for the deaths of four women in Indiana and 40% of work-related deaths for women in the state. Assaults and violent acts only accounted for 15% of work-related deaths for males in Indiana in 2004.

**Figure 22: Employment & Fatality Profiles by Gender of Worker 2004 IN**



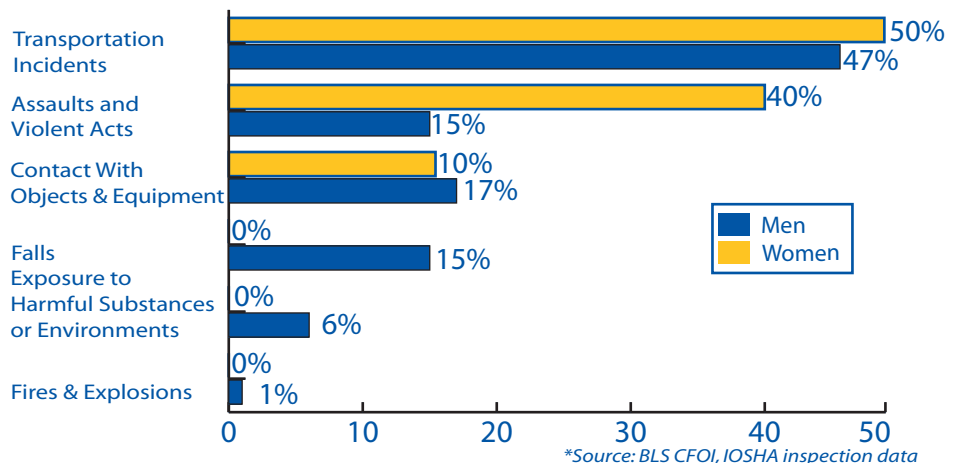
*\*Source: BLS CFOI, \*US Census Bureau QWI (Quarterly Workforce Indicators)*

**Figure 23: Number of Fatal Incidents Between Men & Women in 2004 IN**



*\*Source: BLS CFOI, IOSHA inspection data*

**Figure 24: Percent of Fatal Work Injury Incidents Between Men & Women in 2004 IN**



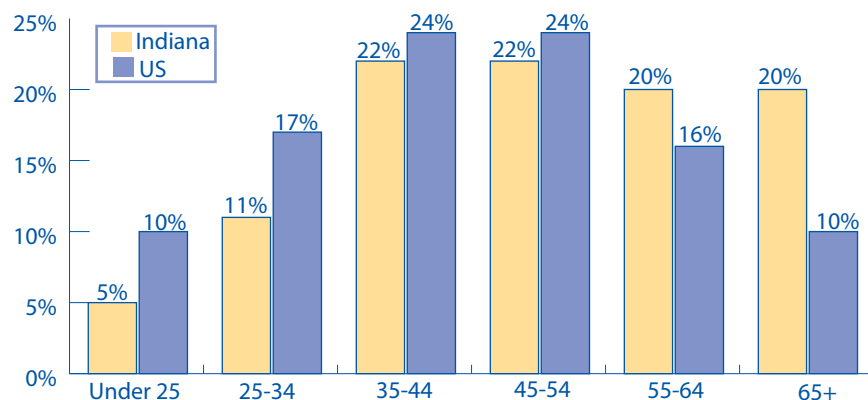
*\*Source: BLS CFOI, IOSHA inspection data*

## Work-Related Fatalities and Injuries by Age Group

In 2004 in Indiana two age groups tied for the most fatal occupation injuries. The 35-44 and 45-54 age groups both accounted for 22% each of total work-related deaths according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational injuries. (Figure 25) These age groups also lead nationally. The age group 55 to 64 tied with the 65+ group for second place with 20% of fatal occupational injuries respectively. These groups had more fatalities in Indiana than on a national level. Indiana however had significantly lower percentage of work-related fatalities in the younger Under 25 and 25 to 34 age groups.

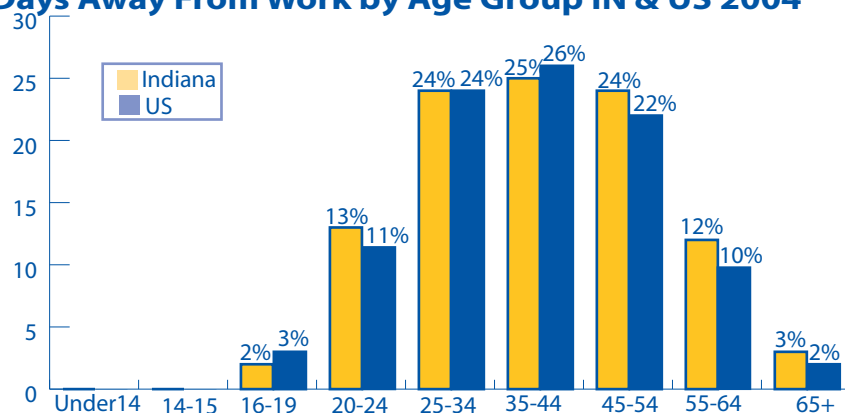
The three age groups spanning from 25 to 54 reported close to three-quarters of non-fatal occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work with the 35 to 44 age group taking a slight lead. (Figure 26) These findings were consistent with the U.S. percentages.

**Figure 25: Comparison of Fatalities by Age Group IN & US 2004**



*\*Source: BLS CFOI, private industry*

**Figure 26: Comparison of Injuries & Illness With Days Away From Work by Age Group IN & US 2004**



*\*Source: BLS SOII, private industry*

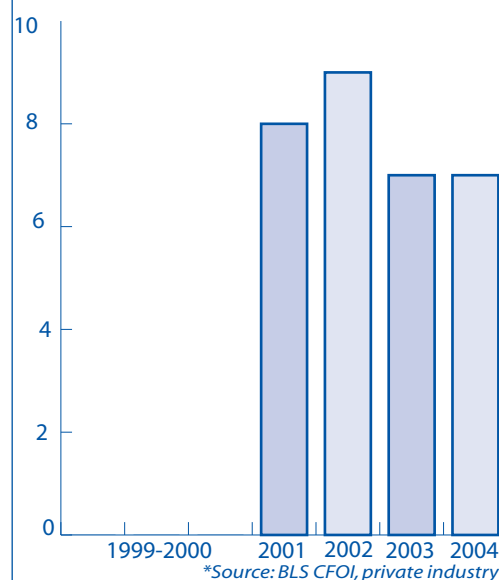
## Fatal Work Injuries Involving Hispanic or Latino Workers in Indiana

Due to the recent influx of Hispanic and Latino workers in the Indiana workforce, the Department of Labor is beginning to monitor race as dimension of work-place fatalities, injuries, and illnesses. Last year seven Hispanic or Latino workers were killed in work-related incidents, the same number as in 2003 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). (Figure 27) The first year the CFOI published fatalities involving Hispanic or Latino workers in Indiana was 2001 with 8 fatalities. There may have

been prior fatalities, but the CFOI does not publish if there are less than three fatalities.

New initiatives by the Department of Labor to address the need for bilingual, culturally-sensitive safety training and consultation services should pay dividends as this population increases in the Indiana labor force. IDOL has also hired and trained two bilingual industrial and construction safety consultants in its INSafe division which should be helpful in reducing accidents that result could result from language or cultural misunderstandings.

**Figure 27: Number of Fatal Work Injuries Involving Hispanic or Latino Workers in IN**



*\*Source: BLS CFOI, private industry*

## IN Review

**IN Review** was prepared by Thomas A. Clerkin, Ph.D., an Assistant Professor of Management at Indiana University Purdue University in Columbus where he teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses in human resources, policy strategy, and entrepreneurship. Dr. Clerkin was formerly the vice president of human resources for a Fortune 250 global manufacturing concern and has nearly 30 years of industrial safety and workers compensation administration experience in both public and private concerns. He has developed and implemented numerous safety and health programs that dramatically reduced workplace injuries and illnesses.

Mary Clerkin and Emily Thayer, May 2006 graduates of the Indiana University School of Journalism in Bloomington served as production interns providing research, editing, and layout and design services.

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Contact us at: [tclerkin@indiana.edu](mailto:tclerkin@indiana.edu).

Special thanks go to Elizabeth Friend, Deputy Commissioner of Quality-Indiana Department of Labor, for providing the data utilized in this study.

### Indiana Department of Labor Indiana Government

**Center -South  
402 W. Washington Street,  
Room W195**

**Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Telephone: (317) 232-2655  
TT/Voice: (800) 743-3333  
FAX: (317) 233-3790**

## Department Focus on Health and Hygiene is Necessary

A review of the Department of Labor's efforts reveal that a significant part of the department resources in terms of people and dollars are focused on health and hygiene issues. Nearly a third of department resources are expended in the health and hygiene area. Industrial Hygiene (IH) Inspectors and Consultants use various sampling devices and focus on health hazards related to chemical and noise exposures, which can result in reduction or loss of personal abilities such as hearing, memory, sight, muscular function, and death. The IH Inspectors & Consultants address biological hazards such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and other living organisms which may cause adverse health effects. They also cover chemical hazards (solids, liquids, gases, dusts, fumes and vapors) which carry toxic chemicals to workers through inhalation (breathing), absorption (through direct contact with the skin), or ingestion (eating or drinking).

What can be confusing about this concentrated emphasis is that the current annual report of workplace illnesses wouldn't warrant this expenditure of department funds.

In fact a comparison to the prior year or even the 10 year trend might suggest that this concentrated effort is unwarranted. The problem with comparing current expenditures with current incidents of reported illnesses is the fact that many of the consequences of exposures to chemicals, noise, and other environmental exposures will take years to manifest themselves. In large part we just don't know yet what the long term impact of these types of workplace exposures will have on the health and well being of Indiana workers. In real terms, the unrecognized impact of exposure to a substance on a large number of employees that may not be apparent in years to come is potentially much more significant than a single reportable injury that occurs today. From a policy standpoint it would be inappropriate to consider reducing the focus of the Department of Labor on this potentially long term area of workplace risk. Research, testing, and monitoring activities in these hygiene areas in current dollars are both a sound fiscal strategy and can be very important in preventing long-term health risk to Indiana workers.